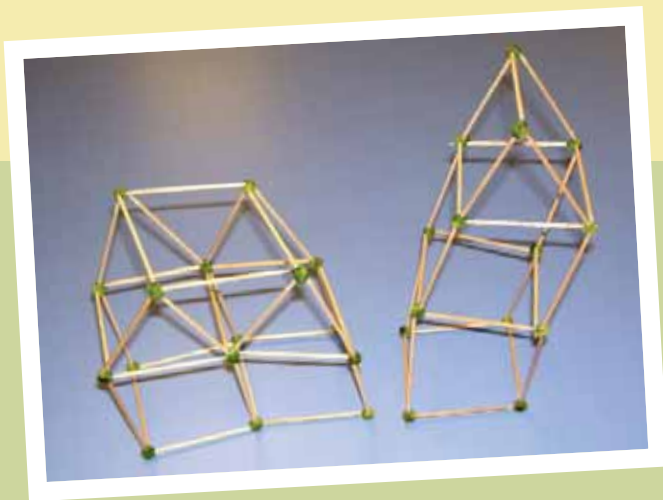


# Art Projects

## Using Everyday Materials

Ideas for art projects were submitted to *Exchange* by readers of *ExchangeEveryDay*. The following pages highlight a few of the interesting projects. *ExchangeEveryDay* is the official electronic newsletter for **ChildCareExchange.com**. It is delivered five days a week bringing news stories, success stories, solutions, trend reports, and much more to professionals around the world. Each report is short and to the point. To subscribe, please go to [www.ChildCareExchange.com/eed](http://www.ChildCareExchange.com/eed).



### Toothpick-Pea Construction

toothpicks and frozen peas

Children built simple to complex three-dimensional structures by gently pressing toothpicks into peas. When peas dry overnight, the structures become sturdy. As we built our structures, we talked about shapes found in buildings, such as squares and triangles. This must be a supervised project for preschool-age, but would be fun for older children as well.

Whiteman Air Force Base Child Development Center  
Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri

### Ceramic Pots

plastic cups, plastic wrap, clay, and ceramic glaze

Students in our lower grades used everyday plastic cups to create these ceramic pots. Plastic wrap was placed over the cups, and clay was then rolled into small balls and stuck onto the plastic wrap covered cups. The entire outside of the cup was covered with clay balls. After drying for several days, the plastic wrap and plastic cup were removed and the dry, free standing clay pots were painted and then fired in our school's kiln. The students were shown examples of these hand-made pots and given a history of how vessels were made in ancient days.

Chesterbrook Academy  
Manalapan, New Jersey



### Nest

This mixed media assemblage by a 2 year old was created in response to Nancy Tafuri's book *Will You Be My Friend?* Nest is comprised of a brown paper bag filled with nature materials (pine needles, grasses, flowers, leaves), and other soft items (feathers, cotton balls, shredded paper, yarn). Cardboard base was painted using large feathers dipped in tempera. All items were affixed using white glue.

Art in Hand™, Herndon, Virginia





### Fun Filter Flowers

coffee filters, straws, masking tape, watercolors, Q-tips®

The Fun Filter Flowers are fun to make and can be easily done with a few items from the house. Let's begin! Lay the coffee filters flat on a table, cover the filters with watercolor using Q-tips®, and let dry. Next, bunch 2 or 3 filters by the center and tape together. Place a straw over the taped filter and tape together.

*The Children's Center at Dock (Salford Mennonite Child Care Center)  
Harleysville, Pennsylvania*



### City

pieces of Styrofoam™, paint, cotton swabs, and play dough

Each child was given a piece of Styrofoam™ and asked, "What do buildings in a city look like?" They painted and glued the pieces onto a piece of cardboard. Each child wrote his name on his creation. The teacher added a playground to the schoolyard with cotton swabs and play dough. The children use the cityscape in the block area to play with toy cars.

### Car Ramps

toilet paper rolls, paper towel tubes, wrapping paper tubes, and duct tape

Children cut and assembled rolls for cars to drive on and in.

*Lake Shore Schools, Chicago, Illinois*



### Papier Mâché Animal

papier mâché, cardboard cylinders, and paint

This activity grew out of an exploration of black and white. It then branched out to looking for black and white animals, so the children made a trip to the Bronx Zoo. Children decided to make a zebra. They used wood scraps and a large cardboard cylinder as the frame. Then they covered the base with many layers of papier mâché. The children made this mix by using newspapers and paste. The most challenging part of the project was to connect the head to the body; many possibilities were tried. Rolled fabric proved flexible with tape; then it, too, was covered with papier mâché before being painted.

*Baruch College Early Learning Center  
New York, New York*



### The Building Project – Eiffel Tower

As part of the Building Project we introduced photographs of the Eiffel Tower, Big Ben, and the

Leaning Tower of Pisa. The children became fascinated with the Eiffel Tower, using several art materials to represent it, including wooden coffee stirrers.

*As Wee Grow Preschool, Barnstable, Massachusetts*



### Body Painting!

The infants use their whole bodies to paint on large white paper. Through exploration of paint with their bodies, these children are learning about concepts, including cause and effect as they see what happens when the paint appears on

their fingers. The infants also learn spatial awareness, and the sense of touch and taste as they figure out what this smooth material is.

*Child and Family Development Center at NHTI  
Concord, New Hampshire*



### This is Me

blender, hand-made paper pulp, assorted clean bottle caps, pipe cleaners, plastic straws, coffee stir sticks, popsicle sticks, twigs, google eyes, pre-cut cardboard shape of head, neck, and shoulders (cereal box works great!)

A recycling project using supplies collected from home. Discussion can include how paper comes from trees: from a solid to a liquid, then from a liquid back to a solid, while students tear paper to make pulp. The pulp is the foundation which holds the materials to create eyes, nose, mouth, hair, with the outcome being a visual of how the student thinks he looks.

*Directions for making pulp: Tear newspaper into small pieces. Place in blender, add small amount of water, pulse to obtain thick oatmeal consistency. Or use water tub, let paper soak for two days, squeeze out water. Cover cardboard with a 1-inch layer of pulp. Students insert materials they wish to use. Place finished project on plastic and allow to dry for several days.*

*Winter Park Presbyterian Preschool, Winter Park, Florida*



### Finger Paint Prints

We set out various kitchen utensils, toilet paper holders, strawberry crates, and finger paint for the children to paint with. The idea was that they would paint directly on the table and experiment as much as they liked with the various items that were set out. When they made an area on the table they liked, we could then place a piece of paper over it for the children to “print” the finished product. The children ended up wanting to make a print of the whole table, so we printed the entire table that they had painted.

*The Children’s Learning Laboratory  
Ashburn, Virginia*

## Tea House

In this project the child used the existing shapes of the materials available at the center to inspire her and form the base of the project. The foam pieces were rescued from a local art museum's preparations shop. The fabric was rescued from a local clothing manufacturer and the lantern was created by inserting stiff wire through the hole of an unused table caster.

*reDiscover at Smart Space*  
Los Angeles, California



## Leaf Art

As a rural child care center in northeastern Pennsylvania, we enjoy all the richness that Fall brings. The entire month of October is spent investigating the changes of the season; observing trees on our property; and looking closely at leaves noticing their shape, colors, symmetry, and lines. Leaves are cut, crushed, and danced with, of course, using Vivaldi's "Fall Concerto"! One of Rainbow Hill's favorite "art" activities is arranging. The idea is that children can arrange and rearrange materials, making new designs, reflecting, making changes and discoveries. They contemplate the materials, plan and carry out a design.

*Rainbow Hill, Shickshinny, Pennsylvania*

## Build-a-thon

We sponsored a Build-a-thon on the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina to remember and benefit children and families affected by the tragedy. The children, parents, and staff collected cardboard boxes, as well as donations, from families and local businesses. After learning about New Orleans and the hurricane in class, the children decided to "build a bridge to New Orleans!"

*Imagine Early Learning Center*  
Port Washington, New York



## Tree Pictures

The children in Mrs. Zabransky's 4-year-old class used tape and scissors to design their own trees on matting board. The children were amazed to see the rainbow creations appear right before their eyes. The trees displayed together on the wall make an amazing forest. The children investigated the elements of visual arts and used creative arts as an avenue for self-expression.

*Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Education Center*  
Hinsdale, Illinois



## Wood Stool

This multi-month class project originated from our 180 acres of trees when we spotted a fallen Hickory tree on one of our many hikes. A parent used a chain saw on the fallen tree cutting it into 4"-thick cross-sections, which children carried back to our classroom. Children helped select fallen branches to cut and fit into holes to make the 3-legged stools. Each child cleaned, sanded, sawed, glued, and pounded their stool and legs, which were later wrapped and became gifts for their parents.

Each child drew a color design onto a paper template, which guided their painting efforts using latex house paints, and then applied clear, acrylic varnish as a top coat.

*University Lake School Full Day Junior Kindergarten  
Hartland, Wisconsin*



## Three Little Pigs' House

Shown are two sides of the *Three Little Pigs' House* that the children built in Room 117, one of our Preschool Rooms. All the children worked together on the project. One side of the house has twigs and small sticks gathered from outside, which the children applied by themselves (with a little help). Another side has shredded yellow paper representing straw, and one side has red construction paper designed to look like bricks. The house has a door where the children can enter and, of course, a huge chimney; needless to say, children are *not* allowed to go down the chimney! It has been a huge success and has provided many hours of imaginative play time.

*Fort Eustis Child Development Center  
Newport News, Virginia*

## Custom Magnets

We recently offered a Parent/Child "Make-It/Take-It" Workshop. We made kazoos by rubber banding waxed paper over the end of papertowel tubes. The children were able to decorate them with stickers and crayons. The magnets were made by applying stickers (or children's photos!) to cardboard and affixing magnetic tape to the back. Baking pans make excellent magnet boards.

*Laboratory Preschool — Bear Room  
Grand Rapids Community College  
Grand Rapids, Michigan*





### Milkjug Mask

milkjugs cut in half, masking tape, shoe polish, plastic beads, shells, ribbon, paint, yarn, buttons, wooden beads, clay, sticks, raffia, feathers, wooden tiles samples

The mask project was inspired by the children's interest in both plays and

*The Lion King*. What was simply an interest grew to a whole new level of ideas; one idea was making masks for their own versions of the play.

We decided that our first plan of action would be to make the masks, not knowing where that would lead. We trusted that by listening to what the children were saying and doing, they would tell us what step to take next. The artwork turned into rustic-style masks embellished with their own touches. The children did use everyday items that came from homes, thrift shops, and what we had on hand in the classroom.

*Mentor Graphic Child Development Center  
Wilsonville, Oregon*

### Animals at the Zoo

Ashley Bosmans, age 5, made this art using a Styrofoam™ meat tray, a toilet paper roll, markers, paper, and black yarn. The children were learning about animals; they were asked to draw a picture of animals at the zoo. When asked about her picture, Ashley said, "This is a giraffe, a monkey swinging in the tree, a snake crawling behind the giraffe, apples falling from the tree, birds flying high in the sky,

and it was cloudy and raining that day."

*Prime Time  
Children's Center  
Owings,  
Maryland*



## Directory for Art Materials

This directory is a short list of organizations offering unique art curriculum and materials. To request free information from these institutions, circle the number for each company on the Product Inquiry Card located between pages 64 and 65.

**Circle 50 Ellison**  
(800) 253-2238  
[www.ellison.com](http://www.ellison.com)  
Customer Service

*Ellison offers educators the Prestige and AllStar brands of hand-operated die-cutting tools and dies. Using a unique press design, the Prestige and AllStar machines give consistent and accurate cuts time and time again. Saves educators hours of time in creating eye-catching room décor, arts and crafts projects, curriculum aids, and so much more.*

**Circle 51 High/Scope Foundation**  
(734) 485-2000  
[www.highscope.org](http://www.highscope.org)  
Kacey Beach  
[info@highscope.org](mailto:info@highscope.org)

*High/Scope materials and training programs are created by educators, for educators. We offer support materials including over 300 books, assessment tools, DVDs, CDs, and classroom resources. At High/Scope, it's not about making a profit. It's about making a difference for children, supporting every teacher, and using research to strengthen education.*

**Circle 52 Jonti-Craft**  
(800) 543-4149  
Catherine Schwarz

*Jonti-Craft, the leading provider of quality furniture for the early learning market offers a wide selection of safe, creatively designed products in both birch plywood and Rainbow Accents™. We have always been committed to employing the highest quality construction techniques available. Our trademark safety features include our famous KYDZHinges™, KYDSafe™ edges and KYDZTuff™ finish.*

**ArtSkills**  
(610) 253-6663

**Nasco Early Learning**  
(800) 558-9595

**Blick Art Materials**  
(800) 447-8192

**Roylco, Inc.**  
(800) 362-8656

**K-play Company**  
(888) 266-3094